

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00
OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-03 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /132 W
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O 241353Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3466
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USOECD

PARIS PASS TO DAS MEISSNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD - RESULTS OF GROUP B MEETING, AUGUST 24

REF: STATE 214749

1. GROUP B MEETING, AUGUST 24, WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF, AS NO OTHER DELEGATION WAS PREPARED TO COMMENT ON DRAFT UNCTAD V AGENDA PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT. ECON MIN MADE MAIN POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND INDICATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS IN GROUP B DISCUSSIONS NEXT WEEK.

2. FRG COORDINATOR INFORMED GROUP B THAT VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR DIEGO LUIS CASTELLANOS HAS BEEN SELECTED BY
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LATIN AMERICAN GROUP TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF 18TH TDB.

3. FRG COORDINATOR ALSO CIRCULATED DRAFT INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, WHICH HE PROPOSES MAKING ON BEHALF OF GROUP B AT THE TDB UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4 - PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD V. FRG WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COMMENTS OR SUGGESTED CHANGES IN TEXT AT GROUP B MEETING NEXT MONDAY

AFTERNOON. TEXT OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

MR. CHAIRMAN:

- LET ME BEGIN BY CONGRATULATING YOU ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP B COUNTRIES ON YOUR ELECTION TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIS, THE 18TH SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. WE ARE SURE THAT UNDER YOUR KNOWLEDGEABLE GUIDANCE THIS IMPORTANT MEETING WILL BE BROUGHT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DISTINGUISHED RAPPOREUR AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU.
- THIS IS THE LAST REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD BEFORE THE 5TH CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, UNCTAD V. OUR MAIN TASK IS TO TAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THAT CONFERENCE. SINCE THIS SUGGESTS THAT OUR ORGANISATION MAY BE PASSING A FURTHER WATERSHED IN ITS HISTORY AND HENCE IN THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS AND THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MY GROUP FEELS IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO MAKE A FEW INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS SESSION.
- THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE LAST CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI HAVE SEEN INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION. ALTHOUGH A COMPLETE MEETING OF MINDS HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED IN ALL FIELDS, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN MANY CASES. ON THE PROBLEM OF INDEBTEDNESS, THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION OF TDB AT MINISTER LEVEL ACCEPTED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLUTION WHICH HAS BROUGHT DIRECT AND POSITIVE RESULTS FOR A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WHICH PAVES THE WAY FOR NEW ADVANCES. I BELIEVE THAT AT THIS STAGE OF OUR EFFORTS WE HAVE ALL BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL GROUPS OF COUNTRIES.

- THIS AWARENESS ALSO FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE AFTER THE OECD COUNCIL MEETING IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR. THE MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN INDUSTRIAL NATIONS CONFIRMED IN IT THEIR COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STRENGTHEN AND DIVERSIFY THEIR ECONOMIES AND IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THEIR PEOPLE. THEY DECLARED THEIR READINESS TO ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTIVE STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, LEADING TO A MORE EQUITABLE AND STABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM.
- THIS IS ALSO THE SPIRIT OF THE WORK OF THE 18TH TDB AND ABOVE ALL UNCTAD V. WE RECOGNIZE THE GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL GROUPS OF STATES AND BELIEVE, IF THE TERM "INTER-DEPENDENCE" IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, THAT THIS IMPOSES DUTIES ON ALL PARTIES TO THE WORLD ECONOMY, THE DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES AS MUCH AS THE

DEVELOPING NATIONS AND THE SOCIALIST STATES. NO-ONE WILL
FAIL TO REALIZE WHAT DIFFICULT TASKS FACE US IN THE
PROCESS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT ANSWERS WILL NOT BE
FOUND IN CONFRONTATION BUT IN CONSTRUCTIVE AND RATIONAL
COOPERATION. HERE UNCTAD HAS A SUPREME ROLE TO PLAY.
ITS STATUS MUST BE PRESERVED. THE LAST TWO YEARS
ESPECIALLY HAVE SHOWN, IN SPITE OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS AND
THE CONTINUING DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS IN SOME AREAS, THAT
UNCTAD IS THE BEST FORUM FOR PURSUING THE PROCESS OF
MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE DIFFERENT COUNTRY GROUPS.
IN THIS CONTEXT, I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO MENTION
THE CONTRIBUTION OF SECRETARY GENERAL COREA AND HIS
STAFF IN THE SECRETARIAT, WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR DE-

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PARIS PASS TO DAS MEISSNER

LIBERATIONS WITH THEIR ORIGINALITY OF THOUGHT AND THEIR
INTENSIVE WORK. UNCTAD MUST CONTINUE WITHIN THE SCOPE
OF (ITS) (THE) TERMS OF REFERENCE (GIVEN BY UNGA RESO-
LUTION 1995 (XIX)) TO BE THE MAIN FORUM FOR
NEGOTIATION.

- I WOULD NOW LIKE TO TURN BRIEFLY TO THE MOST IM-
PORTANT TASK OF THE PRESENT MEETING, THE DRAWING UP OF A
PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR UNCTAD V. THE MAJOR THEMES ARE

ALREADY CLEAR. THEY ARISE OUT OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF OUR ORGANISATION AND THE RESULTS OF EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS. WE ARE GLAD THAT THE DISTINGUISHED SECRETARY GENERAL WAS ABLE BEFORE THIS MEETING TO COMMUNICATE HIS IDEAS TO THE GENEVA REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES, SO THAT THE FACT THAT THE PERTINENT DOCUMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONCE AGAIN REACHED OUR CAPITALS REGRETTABLY LATE HAS NOT OVERLY IMPEDED OUR PREPARATIONS.

- ONE OF THE 5TH CONFERENCE'S ESSENTIAL AIMS WILL BE TO REVIEW WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE UNCTAD V. IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS WILL STILL BE TAKING PLACE IN MANY FIELDS IN THE LAST MONTHS OF 1978. I WOULD MENTION THE CONFERENCE ON A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, THE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FINANCING RELATED TO TRADE AND INVISIBLES, FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE GROUP OF EXPERTS TO DRAW UP FEATURES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS OF INTERESTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE VARIOUS MEETINGS ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES.

- FINALLY, THERE ARE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMMON FUND. ON THIS LAST TOPIC, AS WE ALL KNOW, ULTIMATE AGREEMENT IS NOT YET IN SIGHT IN SPITE OF MAJOR CONCESSIONS BY THE GROUP B NATIONS. MY GROUP HOPES THAT AGREEMENT, AT LEAST ON FUNDAMENTALS, WILL BE POSSIBLE BEFORE THE CONFERENCE IN MANILA. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE DECLARATIONS ISSUED RECENTLY BY A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF GROUP B COUNTRIES, NAMELY THE DECLARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN BREMEN AND THE DECLARATION OF THE SEVEN IN BONN, WHICH REITERATE THE INTENTION ACTIVELY TO PURSUE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMMON FUND TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

- MANY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS I HAVE REFERRED TO HAVE PROVED MORE PROBLEMATIC THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. THIS SHOULD NOT SURPRISE US, AS THE ISSUES ARE VERY COMPLEX AND THE INTERESTS INVOLVED VERY DIVERSE. ONLY PATIENT, DETAILED, CAREFUL AND MATTER-OF-FACT TALKS WILL BRING LASTING RESULTS WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF ALL SIDES AND ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- MR. CHAIRMAN, THE B GROUP COUNTRIES WILL BE ENTERING THIS MEETING WITH AN OPEN MIND AND IN A CONSTRUCTIVE

SPIRIT SO AS TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRE-
PARATIONS FOR THE 5TH CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOP-
MENT. END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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